

Testimony Before The Executive And Legislative Nominations Committee

Peter M. Zeman, M.D.

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Good afternoon Senator Looney, Representative Janowski, Senator Fasano, Representative Camillo, and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. My name is Peter M. Zeman, and it is an honor and privilege to be appointed as a member of the Connecticut Medical Examining Board by Governor Dannel P. Malloy. I very much appreciate your giving me the opportunity to appear before you to speak to my wish to serve on this board.

I have been a resident of West Hartford, CT all of my life, as were my parents. My wife, Ellen, and I have been married for 49 years, and we have two grown children, Jeffrey and Karen. We are fortunate that Jeff and his wife, Mary, live close by with our two grandsons, Sean and Matthew, whom we see often.

I am a psychiatrist in active practice. Except for two years from 1971-73 when I was on active duty as a Lieutenant-Commander in the United States Navy, serving as a psychiatrist at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital, I have been a psychiatrist on the professional staff at the Institute of Living from 1973 to the present. My main clinical work has been with hospitalized patients who have severe psychiatric conditions including schizophrenia, major depression, anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, alcohol and drug dependence, and posttraumatic stress disorder. I also have a subspecialty in forensic psychiatry and have served as a psychiatric expert over the past 30 years in both civil and criminal matters. I have held three prior gubernatorial appointments, as a member of the CT Ad Hoc Committee To Review Judicial Nominations from 1984-1986, as Chair of the Advisory and Review Board of Whiting Forensic Institute from 1984-1995, and as a member of the CT Board of Pardons from 1983-1985.

I received my undergraduate degree from Harvard College in 1963 and my M.D. degree from Yale Medical School in 1967. After serving as an intern in the Hartford Hospital Department of Medicine for one year, I completed my three years of training in psychiatry at the Institute of Living in 1971.

I believe that the licensing process for physicians and other healthcare professionals is of critical importance in ensuring that they meet the highest standards of training, clinical experience, and professional behavior. For the past ten years, I have served as a member of hearing panels of the Board and have obtained a better understanding of the harm to patients which can be the outcome when a physician fails to meet the standard of care and of the role of the Medical Examining Board in protecting the public. I have been reassured, however, by observing that in some instances the physician can be directed by the Board towards rehabilitation or further education to allow his/her continuing to practice medicine in a safe and competent manner.

In closing, I feel that I have the personal qualities and professional experience to contribute to the important work of the Connecticut Medical Examining Board and look forward to the opportunity to do so.

Thank you for your time and attention.